



Boston Connects, Incorporated
Boston Empowerment Zone

2201 Washington Street
Roxbury, MA. 02119

Board Minutes

February 22, 2005

Members Present: George Greenidge-*President*, Robert Kinney-*Vice President*,
Gloria Coney-*Clerk*, Michael Glavin, Julia Flashner, Rev. Roland
McCall, Mark Maloney, Freddie Umeh

Board Fellow: Amit Doshi

Members Absent: Joelee Baker Bey, Joan Wallace-Benjamin, Ralph Cooper, Mike
Foley, Elizabeth Miranda, Jayne Talbot, Charlotte Golar-Richie, Larry
Mayes

Ex-Officios: Senator Dianne Wilkerson

BCI Staff: Shirley Carrington, Judy Roderick

EDIC Staff: Michelle Trousil

ESC: Perry Smith

Guests: Cheryl Snyder

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM

Welcome and Introductions were made

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were tabled due to the absence of a quorum.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr Greenidge referred members to the notes from the Board Retreat on February 4th for a review and summary. Mr. Greenidge was very pleased that the Mayor was able to spend more than an hour speaking with Board members at the retreat. He pointed out that the Mayor suggested hosting another meeting for the BCI Board and the focus would be working closer with businesses and key corporations. Mr. Greenidge also expressed appreciation to Diane Gordon who facilitated the retreat for a job well done. Board members agreed and suggested that Board retreats should happen more often, maybe yearly.

Seantor Wilkerson brought up the issue of the commitments made by businesses and organizations at the time that the Boston Connects, Inc. submitted its application to HUD. She felt that partners should be notified and reminded of their commitment and asked to honor their commitments to BCI. It was acknowledged that some businesses may have changed or gone out of business since the original letters of commitment were submitted, i.e. bank mergers etc.



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor
City of Boston

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Amit Doshi, the Harvard Business School Board Fellow working with BCI, informed the Board that this is the project that he is currently working on. His plans include sending a letter, hopefully cosigned by Mayor Menino and the Board Chair to the businesses who made commitments accompanied by a brief survey to assess the relationship between BCI and the businesses. Additionally, Mr. Doshi will interview a selection of businesses. Senator Wilkerson volunteered to assist with this project.

Mr. Glavin mentioned the issue of monitoring construction projects for employment compliance. Mr. Maloney mentioned that the BRA has a Compliance Enforcement Department, a Boston Job Residency Program and Jobs and Community Service also does compliance monitoring. He suggested that perhaps they could make a presentation to the Board on the compliance.

3. ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Carrington asked the Board if they had received their packages in the mail. A few members responded that they had not received them. Going forward, Ms. Carrington has a goal of getting Board packages in the mail one week in advance of a Board Meeting, however, in order to accomplish this goal, the Board committees would have to meet during the first two weeks of the month.

The Board retreat resulted in several meetings with City staff. Ms. Carrington has met with Ms. Golar-Richie's staff regarding monitoring the 108-EDI funded projects and is planning to meet with Mr. Maloney's Compliance Department in the near future.

Procurement Update:

Contract negotiations are under way with Father Friendly Initiative to provide services under the Fatherhood Initiative RFP.

The first half of the 2005 childcare Quality Improvement Grants have been mailed. The second half will get mailed with the submission of their mid-term reports due in May 05.

The RFP for Employment Services to Support Reintegration for the Ex-offenders will be released on March 1, 2005.

Quarterly meetings with the Family Opportunity Network grantees continue. These meetings give the networks an opportunity to discuss the successes, challenges and solutions to challenges.

Meetings with two sets of Technology programs have been scheduled for March 21st and March 26th at BCI to discuss challenges and solutions to these challenges. Individual monitoring visits will be scheduled to these programs in the spring.

A ribbon-cutting event announcing the Micro loan program with Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation and the first loan from this program is being planned for March or April. The event will be held at the Butterfly Café located at Roxbury Crossing. We are hoping that the Mayor will be able to attend. More information will be forthcoming.

A meeting was scheduled with EDIC staff to discuss the extension of the BCI contract with the Career Centers for EZ vouchers and how to market these vouchers more effectively.



Career Center staff will be invited to the community meetings to inform residents of the availability of vouchers and eligibility requirements.

The Program Manager position has been filled. Evangelene Billy will begin work on March 1, 2005. Ms. Billy's responsibilities will include coordination of the Ex-offender Initiative, contract administration and monitoring of all skills training programs. Ms. Billy comes to BCI with several years of experience working in a variety of human service settings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to meet on March 11. Judy Steriti, BCI's fiscal agent from EDIC will attend the meeting. The final budget will be submitted to the Executive Committee on March 15th and presented to the Board on March 22, 2005 for a final vote.

Several Board members raised questions about the Summer Jobs Program and how funding for the program might affect the BCI budget given the limited resources.

Don Goldberg, Executive Service Corps suggested that a decision be made on how much of the \$2M would be spent on programs this year. This would be helpful to Committees in their planning.

Mr. Greenidge announced that a Consultant has been hired to work with Committee Chairs to discuss budget allocations and program priorities.

EX-OFFENDER SUMMIT

Ms. Coney gave a report on the Ex-Offender Conference sponsored by NCCED (National Congress of Community Economic Development) that she and the Ms. Carrington attended in Miami, February 15-16th in Miami, FL. She felt that the conference was a well-done and of high quality. She suggested that we contact NCCED to see how they might help with the Ex-Offender conference that we are planning.

A discussion ensued as to the length of the conference. Several suggestions for shortening the conference were made.

The Executive Committee was scheduled for February 28, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Glavin asked if the Executive Committee would be authorized to vote on the \$35,000 request for the Ex-offender Summit. The Executive Committee will be authorized to approve Goal H and the \$35,000 request for the Ex-offender conference.

FERDINAND BUILDING

Mr. Maloney added that he would like to report the status of the Ferdinand building on a monthly basis so the Board can be kept informed of the developments on the project including some of the challenges that the project might face. He reported that the City did respond to the State's request for proposal for the development of 92,000 square feet of space and was continuing the dialogue with Governor Romney in hopes of fulfilling the earlier Governor's commitment to a limited degree.

Mr. Mahoney continued by giving the Board an overview of the renovation plans for Dudley including the Modern Electroplating Company, the Police station and the possibility of a training site for Ex-offenders. He stated that the clean up of the Modern Electroplating Company was important and should be tied to the redevelopment of the Ferdinand building.



Mr. Glavin stated it has been recommended that the Acting Executive Director secure appropriate services to advise her and the Board on the Ferdinand Project development. She should watch the budget impact of securing such services.

On the issue of the Crosstown Project, Mr. Maloney suggested that the Crosstown Managers meet with the BCI Board to update the Board on their progress. The BRA Board will vote that Phase I is in compliance except for the landscaping, Harbor Pass and retail space which is not occupied. Phase II is moving forward as planned.

There was a brief discussion as to the process of the presentation to the Board, whether it should go to the Economic Development Committee, then to the Board. Mr. Glavin suggested that such reporting should be done through the Committees. He reiterated the three components of the Committee's worksheet should be that of program priorities, resource development and monitoring and evaluation.

Mr. Glavin announced that the Economic Development Committee would meet on Monday the 28th at 4:00 and invited Board members to attend. At the meeting there will be a presentation from the Boston Tea Party Ship/Museum requesting \$10M in Empowerment Zone Facility Bonds. There will also be updates on the Palmer Street (108-EDI project) and Blue Hill Avenue Commons (Bond project) projects.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Coney has been appointed to the Governor's Task Force on the Status of Women.

Senator Wilkerson was congratulated on her great campaign to be elected Chair of the Democratic Party.

Mr. Greenidge announced that he would not be able to attend the March 22, 2005 Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM

A true record attest:

Gloria Coney, Clerk

Date

